

Easterling, Deborah

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2015 1:26 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Duke Power Transmission Plan, docket number ND-2015-20-E.

Dear Jeffrey, Alison, Sutton, and Sadler Smith:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your email will become a part of ND-2015-20-E - Duke Energy Carolinas: Foothills Transmission and Substation Project- 45-Mile Transmission Line Between Asheville, NC, Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, SC, and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Administrative Coordinator

From: Boyd, Jocelyn
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2015 11:13 AM
To: Duke, Daphne; Easterling, Deborah; DeSanty, Tricia
Subject: FW: Duke Power Transmission Plan, docket number ND-2015-20-E.

From: Alison Schutt [[mailto:\[redacted\]](#)]
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 10:18 AM
To: Boyd, Jocelyn
Subject: Duke Power Transmission Plan, docket number ND-2015-20-E.

To whom it may concern:

Let me first introduce my family to you. My name is Alison Smith and my husband, Jeffrey, and two children Sutton (age 4) and Sadler (age 2) live on the proposed transmission line route 19. We did receive a letter so therefore will live within 500 feet of the proposed line. Along with my neighbors and other members of the Foothills Preservation Alliance I am very concerned about the line. My own family's personal concerns primarily revolve around health, aesthetics, and environment. I am going to address each item below individually.

My husband and I are both physicians; therefore, I feel that I am able to address the health issue in a more scientific way. In fact, I am a pediatrician with a history of employment as a researcher in a biochemistry lab. I am well educated on the scientific process, statistical significance, and objective evaluation of medical literature. My husband and I did extensive research through the NIH and PubMed to determine the actual health risks with living near a HVT line. The literature has clear evidence showing that living near transmission power lines are a risk factor for childhood leukemia and other CNS neoplasms. In particular the two studies that stand out are the 2005 study from the British Medical Journal and the meta-analysis by Theriault et al. The BMJ study was a large case-controlled review (including 29,081 children) published in a distinguished

journal that showed children living within 200 meters of a high voltage line had a statistically significant increased risk for the development of leukemia. Route 19 and 2B have approximately 50 children that are permanent or near-permanent residents. These children are valued members of our family and the community. Although, this seems like a small number considering this is a rural area with larger family tracts this is a high proportion for the small distance covered by the line. Overall, we found approximately 10 legitimate studies supporting the association and 1 equivocal one. In addition, there are looser studies supporting a link between neurodevelopment issues and interference with cardiac pacemakers. Please consider all children and particularly my two loving boys when making your decision about route, need for the substation/lines at all, or possibility of burying the line.

Furthermore, on a personal level the aesthetics of the line are disturbing. My husband and I moved here about 2 years ago to take jobs in Spartanburg, SC and Greenville, SC respectively. We could have lived closer to the cities to decrease commute times etc. but we chose to live in the rural outskirts of Landrum, SC and Campobello, SC. Our choice was primarily driven because we were drawn to the constant interaction with nature. In the evenings we can eat outside and enjoy the view (to our west) of the mountains, watch deer with their fawns play, hear turkeys, and commune with frogs. This is a priceless gift in the face of the constant traffic and suburban life you experience living in a city. We are familiar with the opposite as we just moved from the Dallas area. To have the transmission line 500 feet from our home, on the mountain view side, will be akin to living on the landing strip of DFW airport. In addition, many people in our neighborhood (North Pacolet Association) have spent years securing conservation easements to secure this peaceful quality of life. Secondly, they have created a lovely equestrian community with 12 miles of bridle paths suitable for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The reason they are suitable and conserved is that they are undisturbed SC/NC natural habitats. Having the transmission line will undo all the hard work done before and destroy that quality of life.

Please consider reevaluation of the proposed WNC foothills project entirely or at least your proposed transmission route through 19. The project will not benefit this community through providing public works and will only cause negative ramifications including but not limited to potential health detriments and environmental and aesthetic concerns. Please do not hesitate to personally contact me for more information or comments.

Sincerely,

Alison Smith, MD

Jeffrey Smith, MD MBA

Sutton Smith

Sadler Smith